



An Update on New Jersey's

Community Forestry Act

New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry's State Forest Service, Early Spring 2001

Join the NJ Arbor Day Celebration in Manalapan!

By Marielaire McCartan and Michael D'Errico of the NJFS

TRENTON - Everyone is invited to the **NJ Arbor Day Celebration** scheduled for April 27th in Manalapan Township at 11:00 AM. Since 1949, the NJ Legislature has set aside the last Friday of April as Arbor Day to promote tree planting and to encourage residents throughout the state to honor trees.

The theme for this Arbor Day will be the recognition of the 25th Anniversary of Tree City USA. It was started as a Bicentennial project and is sponsored by both the National Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters. The program recognizes cities, counties, and military bases that have developed a comprehensive community forestry management plan, and helps make us all more aware of tree planting and tree care activities. NJ leads the northeast in the number of Tree Cities and has two communities that have been part of Tree City USA since the inception of the program. Paramus and Parsippany-Troy Hills are two of the original 42 cities that began Tree City USA in 1976. They will be receiving their 25th Year Anniversary Awards.

Manalapan Township's Arboretum was chosen to host the NJ Arbor Day program because this site will receive a 2001 DEP Tree Planting grant adding \$10,000 worth of trees to the Arboretum. The Arboretum provides a place of natural beauty for the Manalapan community and will have an extensive variety of woody plants being cultivated for scientific, educational, and ornamental purposes. The Arboretum is the culmination of ten years of hard work by the Manalapan Shade Tree Committee and is located in front of the municipal building along Monmouth County Route 522 and Taylors Mills Road.

Acting Governor Donald T. DiFrancesco and DEP Commissioner Robert C. Shinn, Jr. will proclaim the 27th as New Jersey Arbor Day for the 52nd time. The Acting Governor and Commissioner Shinn will be asked to present awards to the student winners of the NJ Arbor Day contests and the Tree City awards that include 25th, 20th, and 1st year communities. The Joyce Kilmer Award will be presented to Louise Lang of the Manalapan Shade Tree Committee and to Assemblyman George F. Geist for raising awareness of the importance of our community trees and their roles in making our cities and towns better places to live.

Over 100 attendees and several hundred students from the Manalapan School district are expected to make this the largest NJ Arbor Day Celebration to date. The festivities, which are open to everyone, will conclude with a Ceremonial Tree planting by both the Acting Governor and the Commissioner.

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Over 100 trees to enhance low-income New Jersey communities

NATIONAL TREE TRUST AWARDS GRANT FOR SHADE TREES AT
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOMES IN NJ

By Lisa Simms

The NJ Tree Foundation, in partnership with 24 Habitat for Humanity affiliates in NJ, received **\$25,000 from the National Tree Trust** to plant large shade trees in six NJ neighborhoods where Habitat For Humanity homes have been built. The three communities chosen for tree planting projects this spring are Long Branch, Trenton, and Camden. Three additional communities will revitalize their neighborhoods with trees in the autumn. The National Tree Trust's Partnership Enhancement Monetary Grant Program is funding this **Habitat For Trees** project.

The National Tree Trust, the NJ Tree Foundation, and Habitat for Humanity share a belief that trees make a significant positive impact on a community's quality of life.

The National Tree Trust was created in 1990 as part of the America the Beautiful Act. The National Tree Trusts' mission is to assist volunteer and community organizations in the planting, growing and maintenance of trees in rural and urban communities. The National Tree Trust fulfills its mission by mobilizing volunteer groups, promoting public awareness, awarding grants, and by uniting civic with corporate institutions in support of community forestry.

Habitat for Humanity creates home ownership opportunities for low-income families that otherwise could not afford to purchase their own home. HFH homeowners purchase their homes at cost and without interest after working side-by-side with community volunteers on construction projects.

For further information about *Habitat For Trees* call Lisa Simms of the NJ Tree Foundation at 609-984-3856 or Peter Dalton, Resource Development Manager, Habitat for Humanity International at 610-692-6681 ext. 4112.

Treasure Our Trees plate is in demand

"No automobile in New Jersey is complete without its very own *Treasure Our Trees* license plates on the front and back bumpers!" At least that was the prevailing sentiment at a recent meeting of the NJ Community Forestry Council held in Freehold. David Shaw, of the Monmouth County Shade Tree Commission and the Council Chairman, added that he knew the plates were a success when he "no longer knew the driver of cars with our plates." Having sold over 3,500 plates makes it number six out of the fourteen specialty plates offered to NJ drivers.

This preservation license plate was established under the *NJ Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act* to help communities nurture, protect, and manage their local tree resource. It is available at any of the 47 Motor Vehicle Services agencies or by calling the Division of Motor Vehicles at (609) 292-6500 weekdays from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Of the one time \$50 fee and the annual \$10 renewal fee, \$39.11 goes into a fund that supports grants available to communities. Both fees are **tax-deductible**.

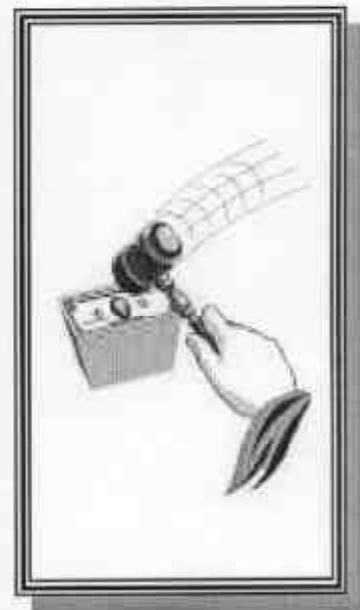
The plate is designed with a northern red oak, our official state tree, and the flowering dogwood, the state's designated memorial tree. The oak is depicted in its magnificent autumn foliage while the dogwood is in full spring bloom.

In response to a grass roots movement among the state's green industry professionals, Senator John O. Bennett of Monmouth County is sponsoring Senate Bill S1933 that will allow the creation of a *Treasure Our Trees* license plate by the NJ Division of Motor Vehicles for **commercial vehicles**.

NJ By the numbers...



- 115 Tree City USA Towns
- 630 CORE Trained People
- 24 Habitat for Humanity Towns
- 230 State Certified Tree Experts Active
- 566 Municipalities in New Jersey
- 3 Approved County Community Forestry Management Plans
- 50 Approved Municipal Community Forestry Management Plans
- 101 Municipal Community Forestry Management Plans in Process
- 238 Towns Participating in the New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act



Two NJ tree care companies found guilty of fraudulent use of CTE title and paid fines

VICTORIES IN COURT SEEN AS A WARNING TO THE UNSCRUPULOUS

by Dave Johnson, NJFS

TRENTON -- As the Certified Tree Expert credential continues to become more well known by the general populace and the demand for knowledgeable tree care professionals increases, so does the chance that the term CTE will be misused by individuals seeking to capitalize on it. Evidence of the Board of Tree Experts' increased vigilance comes in the form of two successful cases where tree care companies were found guilty of violating the *Certified Tree Expert Act* and made to pay fines in the municipal court where the companies had their businesses registered.

A southern NJ company had advertised in the Yellow Pages as having a Certified Tree Expert on staff but investigation revealed that they did not currently nor ever had a CTE employed in their business. When no representative from the company appeared at the initial hearing, the Board of Tree Experts requested a bench warrant be issued. The warrant was served and the defendant pleaded guilty at the second hearing.

A northern NJ company's deceased owner had been a CTE and the owner's son continued to renew his father's certification after his death. He also fraudulently used the certification to meet bid specifications for municipal tree work. This municipality subsequently awarded the bid contract to the company not knowing that the firm no longer employed anyone with the credential. When a bench warrant was issued for not appearing at the first hearing of the case, the defendant pleaded guilty to the offense and paid the fine. No second hearing was necessary in this case.

Enforcement of the *Certified Tree Expert Act* is seen as a key component of ongoing efforts to maintain the integrity of this valued certification. A CTE is one who has demonstrated the highest professional, ethical, and moral standards in the practice of tree care and maintains their expertise in state-of-the-art techniques through continuously increasing their knowledge and skills in arboriculture.

Amendments to the "No Net Loss" Act become law

STATE ENTITY DEFORESTED HALF ACRE TRIGGERS
REFORESTATION PLAN MANDATE
WITH HIERARCHY OF SITES

by Dave Johnson, NJFS

TRENTON -- Projects such as roadway widening or construction, expansion of existing state facilities or new building construction are all subject to the "No Net Loss" Act affecting State entities such as the Department of Transportation, Garden State Parkway, Department of Corrections, and the State Colleges and Universities. The recently passed amendments to this Act will reduce the size of an area that needs to be reforested to ½ acre (21,780 sq. ft.) and make the State entity obtain approval for a reforestation plan submitted to the DEP's Division of Parks and Forestry prior to any work being started.

In 1993 the "No Net Loss" Act mandated compensatory reforestation of land owned or maintained by the State of New Jersey whenever one acre or more of forest was to be cleared.

These amendments also set a hierarchy of where the reforestation will occur if it cannot be completed adjacent to the deforested site. The first area that will be replanted is state owned land within the municipality where the work is being done and then **property owned or maintained by the municipality**. Approved street tree plantings would be acceptable reforestation as would tree plantings at parks, schools, recreation areas, municipal facilities, and open space areas.

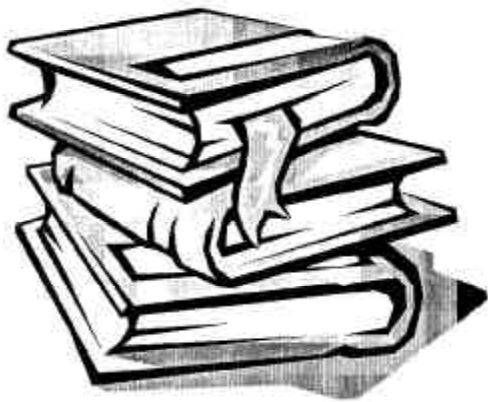
Senator Bennett of Monmouth County and Senator Bucco of Morris County sponsored this innovative legislation. On the Assembly side, Assemblyman George F. Geist of Camden County was instrumental. It was co-sponsored by Senators Allen and Matheussen and is available on the Internet at www.njleg.state.nj.us. Click on Bills 2000-01 and then click on Number and type in s254.

Notification of the amended law is being sent to appropriate state agencies and a set of guidelines is being developed to assist those agencies in developing reforestation plans for all future impacted projects.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 12 Council Meeting
- April 21 Monroe Oak Lightning Protection Workshop
- April 27 Arbor Day in NJ
- May 7-18 CAA Arboriculture I:
Basic Tree Climbing
5/9 1st Aid & CPR
5/11 Aerial Rescue &
Electrical Hazard
5/16 Chainsaw Safety
- May 10 Council Meeting
- May 15 CTE Prep-course I at
Tatum Park in Middletown
- June 2 CTE Prep-course II at
Tatum Park in Middletown
- June 16 CORE Training in
Paramus, New Jersey
- July 11 CTE Exam
- July 12 Council Meeting
- August No Council Meeting
- September 5 – 8
National Urban Forest Conference
Washington, DC
Omni Shoreham Hotel
- September 13 Council Meeting
- September 13 – 17
SAF National Convention
Denver, CO
- TBA Tree Planting Event Training
NJ Tree Foundation
- October 11 Council Meeting
- October 19 – 21 Tree Expo
The NJ Shade Tree Federation
Annual Meeting in Cherry Hill



The NJ Community Forestry Training Skills & Accreditation Program Explained

by Pam Tappen, NJFS

TRENTON - The Training Skills and Accreditation Program was established under the *NJ Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act of 1996*. It includes the initial **CORE** Training and the CEU's.

In addition to establishing a Community Forestry Council and the *Treasure Our Trees* license plate, the Act enables New Jersey's communities to reduce or eliminate their exposure to litigation due to the poor condition of the community tree resource. The basis for this protection is municipal or county participation in the Training Skills and Accreditation Program and a state-approved Community Forestry Management Plan.

CORE Training

CORE training is designed to familiarize individuals with community forestry and shade tree commissions, the legal aspects of managing trees and hazardous tree situations, and to enable individuals to help municipalities and counties gain approved status.

The four-hour CORE training program is for:

- ☛ persons participating in local tree boards, commissions, or groups designated by the mayor as the responsible party for community trees;
- ☛ any municipal or county representative or employee charged with the mission of providing maintenance or stewardship to community trees.

A minimum of two persons per municipality or county seeking accreditation under the Act must attend the CORE training:

- ☛ one must be a local government employee or elected official and
- ☛ one must be a commission member, board member, or volunteer from the community.

Completion of this CORE training program will satisfy one of the two requirements of municipalities and counties seeking approved status under the of NJ Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act.

Continuing Education Units

Municipal or county approved status will continue past the initial year when individuals attend programs that offer Continuing Education Unit (CEU) credits. At least two individuals representing the municipality or county must accrue a total of eight CEU credits annually to maintain approved status for the municipality or county. Any individual, not just CORE trained people, can attain CEU's on behalf of the municipality or county.

The first CORE training session for 2001 will be held on Saturday, June 16th in Paramus. CORE training will also be offered twice at the NJ Shade Tree Federation Meeting in Cherry Hill on Friday, October 19th and Saturday, the 20th.

For more information on the CORE and CEU's contact Pam Tappen, Training Coordinator, NJ Forest Service, PO Box 404, Trenton, NJ 08625.





Oak Tree Disease bill funds statewide survey

Senate Bill Number 1368, the *Oak Tree Disease* bill, was signed into law by former Governor Whitman just prior to her move to Washington, DC, to become head of the US EPA. The bill has allocated \$95,000 to the State Forestry Service to conduct a survey and related research on Bacterial Leaf Scorch (BLS) disease.

BLS appears to be rapidly spreading through our populations of red oak (our state tree) and pin oak trees. It has been identified in several southwestern New Jersey towns and is attacking in a northward direction. Aerial photography and field investigation will provide critical data needed to determine the extent of the infestation and to identify appropriate strategies for response. There is no effective preventive treatment for this disease, however several management options exist.

BLS is caused by a very small and fastidious, xylem-limited, Gram-negative bacillus (*Xylella fastidiosa*) that is spread by leafhoppers and spittlebugs. This bacterium may also be a threat to our scarlet oak, sycamores, elms, ash, plum, peach, and mulberry.

The USDA Forest Service has published a two-page *Pest Alert* in color with the title ***Bacterial Leaf Scorch Affects New Jersey State Tree***. It is available from the NJ Forest Service in Trenton. At a recent meeting of the NJ Community Forestry Council, Clifford M. Pfeider (CTE #267) of Moorestown said, "There'll be a BLS Workshop at Rutgers University in the second week of September."

The NJ Community Forestry Council will be submitting its report on the survey and research results to the Legislature.

PSE&G grants create a greener Garden State

by Lisa Simms, NJTF

We will welcome more migrating birds to the Garden State this year with Public Service Electric & Gas Company's (PSE&G) continued financial support of the NJ Tree Foundation. PSE&G donated \$5,000 in 2000 and \$6,000 in 2001 for community education and forestry programs in Hudson and Bergen Counties. Some of this funding will be used to plant trees with Habitat for Humanity in Hackensack, New Jersey.

PSE&G Regional Public Affairs Manager Richard Dwyer said, "Working with the Tree Foundation joins the corporate and nonprofit sectors with community volunteers to promote environmental action. Benefits of this partnership include improved air quality, energy conservation, increased wildlife habitat, and reduced water run-off. Also, the appropriate trees can support the feeding and breeding of native species of birds."

Tree Foundation Programs Director Lisa Simms added, "The Tree Foundation is committed to providing exceptional forestry programs, services and opportunities to NJ's cities and towns." The goals of the statewide, non-profit foundation are to promote the importance of community forestry activities to a broad range of participants, expand urban, suburban and rural forestry activities through innovative projects and programs, facilitate volunteerism, and strengthen relationships between private and public sector foresters.

Some of the funding will be used to plant native trees and shrubs along the Hackensack River with Riverkeeper Captain Bill Sheehan and Hackensack River Greenway Taskforce volunteer Rick Mills overseeing the project. "PSE&G is helping to make parks and open spaces living classrooms for the community," said Captain Sheehan. "The health of the river, its plants, and fish depends upon public support for stewardship and a commitment to environmental responsibility. The goal is to develop a citizenry who advocate an environmentally safe and clean Hackensack River," according to Rick Mills.

PSE&G is NJ's oldest and largest gas and electric delivery utility, serving nearly three-quarters of the state. As a subsidiary of Public Service Enterprise Group Incorporated (NYSE:PEG), it is a diversified energy and energy services company based in Newark.

For more information, contact Lisa Simms at the NJ Tree Foundation at (609) 984-3856 or email njtf1@juno.com.

1st Place
Grades K - 3

**Matthew
McDuffie**

Saint
Elizabeth,
Scotch Plains



1st Place
Grades 4 - 8

**Andrew
Pascuale**

Immaculate
Conception,
Secaucus

Prizes awarded in New Jersey Arbor Day

Over 280 students from schools across New Jersey competed in the 2001 New Jersey Thank You Card Contest to celebrate Arbor Day and Community Forestry. Gift certificates of \$100, \$75, and \$50 were awarded to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place in each of three grade-level categories. K-3 students designed original hand drawn cards while entries from grades 4-8 had to be computer generated original artwork only. Cards from grades 9-12 had to have an original photo of a NJ scene. These student designed cards will be used by the

Thank You Card Contest



Kristen Roche - 1st Place - Grades 9 - 12
Holy Family Academy, Bayonne

Community Forestry staff throughout the year. The contest was sponsored by the NJ Forest Service & NJ Tree Foundation.

Grade K-3:

Willy Yam, 2nd Place

Mary Catherine Amato, 3rd Place

Grades 4-8:

Ben Latini, 2nd Place

Erin Lordy, 3rd Place

Grades 9-12:

Ray Willer & Michael Dawson,
Second Place

Rachel Williams, 3rd Place

Milltown in the green!

A \$15,000 **grant** from the NJ Forest Service will be used by the borough of Milltown for tree maintenance. "We're going to use it to remove hazardous trees and stumps as well as for pruning," said Jim Strimple, Chairman of the Milltown Shade Tree Commission. The **matching** \$5,000 was approved by the Borough Council at its January 22nd meeting. The borough intends to fulfill part of its financial obligation by providing borough employees to work on the project. While the borough will use a contractor to perform some of the labor, they will also be employing a Certified Tree Expert to determine which trees are hazardous. A **hazardous** tree is one with a defect and a target. The target could be property or people near the tree. Sidewalks will be repaired and trees that are removed will be replaced according to an article in the *Sentinel*.

The Shade Tree Commission will plant a tree at the Joyce Kilmer School on **Arbor Day** and distribute 100 seedlings to the children. Clare Laskoski of the NJ Shade Tree Federation reports that the Milltown Borough Council was so impressed with the efforts of the Shade Tree Commission in getting grants, that they doubled the Commission's annual **budget** from \$4,500 to \$9,000. Not bad for a small town!

National tree planting ad campaign Launches!

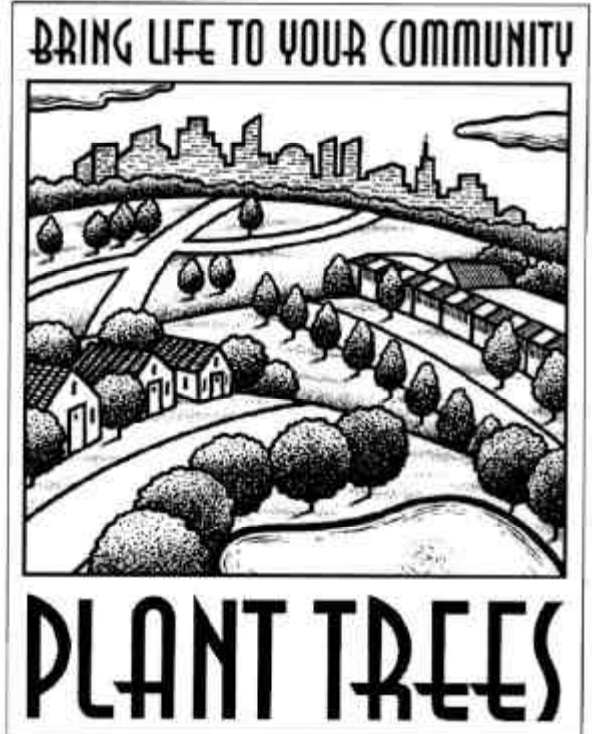
by Bill Brash, Mercer County Soil Conservation District

The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (NUCFAC) with the USDA Forest Service will launch a national awareness campaign to promote Community Forestry. The **free logo can be downloaded** and utilized throughout community forestry.

The campaign was modeled after "GOT MILK" with a simple message readily recognized by all. In the "GOT MILK" campaign the dairyman, the dairy, and the corner grocery benefit from the ad by the increased milk sales. However, no one really knows who is behind the campaign. The group behind the ads is not the message, drinking more milk is.

This **PLANT TREES** campaign is similar. The Forest Service or NUCFAC is not the message, supporting community forestry is. Whether it is an **Arbor Day celebration** or the **local garden center and nursery** using the free art and advertising materials, the campaign works. The copyright-free logo is perfect for any high quality community forestry posters, stationary, brochures, or announcements.

NUCFAC will be placing print ads in Time Magazine and the New York Times, and 29 voice media PSA spots on NPR. NUCFAC is encouraging everyone's participation in this ad campaign through local events by using these quality graphics. The message will be the same throughout community forestry, "Plant Trees... Bring Life to Your Community." The launch date is set for April 27, 2001 at the www.communitytrees.org website.



Sneak preview in color and B&W at:
www.usda.gov/agency/oc/design/client/